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COLCHESTER PORT HEALTH AUTHORITY.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for 1952.

Section 1- Staff. Table A.

Name of Officer	Nature of appointment	Date of appointment	Qualifications	Any other appointments held
John D. Kershaw	Port Medical Officer of Health	1.11.46.	M.D., B.S., D.P.H.	Area Medical Officer Div. Sch. M.O. M.O.H. Borough of Colchester. Consultant in Infectious Diseases, Myland Hospital, Colchester.
Patrick S. Norris	Port Medical Inspector	1.10.47	M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	In general practice only.
Rudolph Boast	Port Sanitary Officer	26.1.44.	C.S.I.E.J.B., Cert. Meat & Foods, A.R.S.I. M.R.I.P.H.H.	Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor to Brightlingsea U.D.

Dr. John D. Kershaw, Health Offices, Trinity Street, Colchester, Telephone No. Colchester 5101, Extn. 73.

Note : Part-time appointments : Dr. Norris for the examination of casual foreign arrivals (Circ.2642-1.7.42)

Section 2- Amount of shippimg entering district during year. Table B.

Ships from	Number	Tonnage	No. inspected By M.O.H.	No. inspected By Sanitary Inspector	No. of ships reported as having or having had during the voyage infectious disease on board.
Foreign Ports :	113	12,416	nil	282	nil
Coastwise :	1425	102,026			nil
Total	1538	114,442	nil	282	nil

Note :- These figures include local fishing boats, and yachts.

Section 3- Character of shipping and trade during the year.

Table C.

Passenger traffic : Number of passengers inward nil
Number of passengers outward nil

Cargo traffic : Principal imports : Clay, Timber, Coal, Corn.
Principal exports : Gravel and sand, flour.

Principal ports from which ships arrive : London, Newcastle, Fur, (Denmark)

Section 4) Inland barge traffic.

There is no fresh water barge traffic. Two flour mills, one at East Bay, Colchester, and one at Firgringhoe, are at the limits of the tideway, and are served by barges, the Colchester firm of E.T. Marriage & Sons Ltd., owning their own barge fleet which also serves their mill at Felixstowe on the Suffolk coast.

Section 5- Water Supply.

Source of supply for the district : Brightlingsea U.D.C. Waterworks, West Mersea U.D.C. Waterworks Wivenhoe U.D.C. Waterworks, Abberton Waterworks (Lexden & Winstree R.D.C.) Rowhedge Waterworks (Lexden & Winstree) Colchester Borough Waterworks.

1 (a)

(b) for shipping : Borough of Colchester, U.D.'s of Brightlingsea and Wivenhoe.

2. Routine samples taken at intervals.

3. Tap and delivery hose enclosed in box.

4. Two water boats based at Brightlingsea, and operated by shipyard firms are inspected at regular intervals and storage tanks are thoroughly cleansed at least once a year.

Section 6- Public Health (Ships) Regulations, 1952.

(1) List of infected areas (Regulation 6)- No special list is kept and amended, as ships from infected areas are unlikely to use this port. The official weekly statement issued by the Ministry of Health is perused in the office of the Port M.O.H. and is then posted to H. M. Preventive Officer in Charge at Brightlingsea as the first person likely to board vessels on arrival.

(2) a. Not a radio transmitting port (Regulation 13)

b. Not a radio receiving port (Regulation 14 (1) (a) and (2)

(3) Notifications otherwise than by radio (Regulation 14 (1) (b)

Messages to vessels are transmitted and received through H. M. Customs and Excise, Brightlingsea, and also through Lloyd's Agent, Waterside, Brightlingsea. If necessary the Customs Officers would arrange for radio messages to be sent from a station situated outside the district.

(4) Mooring Stations : Mooring stations for suspected vessels are situated at Brightlingsea.

(5) a. Infectious diseases are accommodated at Myland Hospital, Mill Road, Colchester.

b. Contacts on the vessel are seen by M.O.H. or Deputy (Dr. E.A.Hargreaves) and those who have proceeded to addresses outside the area are notified to the local M.O.H. for investigation and report.

c. Ships would be disinfected within the Port area by means of formaldehyde generators or sprays, but large vessels would be sent to the Port of London for treatment.

Cleansing of persons, clothing and other articles would be arranged through Colchester Borough Health Dept. where there are facilities for bathing, steam disinfection of clothing, and formalin treatment of other articles.

Section 7- Smallpox.

(1) The Rivers Hospital,(Long Beach) Dartford, Kent. In certain circumstances the Regional Hospital Board might order the opening of smallpox accommodation at Colchester.

(2) Cases requiring removal to Hospital would be moved by arrangement with the E.C.C. Ambulance station at Colchester, on telephoned request from medical staff. All ambulance crews are vaccinated on joining.

(3) Port M. O. H. is a consultant for the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital area (No.6) and is on the Ministry's Panel of Consultants. If Dr. Kershaw is not available one of the following:-

Dr. W. T. Boul, Grays.
Dr. J. P. Marsden, River Hospitals, Joyce Green, Dartford.
Dr. W. J. Coughlan, Joyce Green Hospital, Dartford.

(4) Suspected smallpox crusts or vesicle fluids for diagnostic complement fixation tests are sent to Prof. A. W. Downie, Dept. of Bacteriology, The University, 126 Mount Pleasant, Liverpool,3.

Section 8- Venereal Disease.

List 7A May, 1940 issued by the Ministry of Health in accordance with the International Agreement (Brussels, 1924) is kept in the office of the Port M.O.H. and information is available to other port officers on request concerning centres at home and abroad. Lavatories and urinals in the port area have local information exhibited and also posters issued by the Ministry in connection with the educational campaign.

Centre for diagnosis and out-patient treatment at Essex County Hospital, Lexden Road, Colchester
Mondays : 5-7 p.m. and Fridays : 3.30-4.30 p.m.

In-patient treatment is arranged at the nearest Seaman's Hospital, (Greenwich)

Section 9- Cases of notifiable and other infectious diseases on ships.

Table D.

Category.	Disease.	No. of cases during year Passengers	Crew	No. of ships concerned.
Cases landed from ships from foreign ports.	-	nil	nil	nil
Cases which have occurred on ships from foreign ports but have been disposed of before arrival	-	nil	nil	nil
Cases landed from other ships		nil	nil	nil

Section 10- Observations on the occurrence of Malaria on ships.

The port is not used by any ships visiting malaria infected areas, and no case has come to notice.

Section 11- Measures taken against ships infected with or suspected for plague.

Reply as in Section 10.

Section 12- Measures against rodents in ships from foreign ports.

(1) Examination for evidence of rat infestation is carried out in all vessels inspected.
(2) Bacteriological or pathological examination of rodents would be carried out in Min. of Food laboratory, or at the Public Health Laboratory, Borough General Hospital, Ipswich. None were sent for examination during the year.
(3) Disinfestation is carried out by the use of poison baits. Severe cases requiring treatment with hydrogen cyanide would be sent to the Port of london.
(4) No noticeable progress in the rat proofing of old vessels.

Table E. Rodents destroyed during the year in ships from foreign ports.

Category	Number
Black, brown, unknown species	nil

Rats sent for examination nil
Rats infected with plague nil

Table F.

The Port Sanitary Authority is not authorised to issue Deratting or Deratting Exemption Certificates.

Rodent Control Certificates under the Prevention of Damage by Pests (Application to Shipping) Order, 1951, are issued.

Section 13- Inspection of ships for nuisances

Table G. Inspections and notices.

Nature and number of inspections.	Notices served. Statutory Notices	Other Notices	Result of serving notices.
Sanitary Defects- 282	nil	34	Necessary cleansing and repairs carried out.
Rat Infestation- 282	nil	2	Poisoning carried out.
Water Boats- 7	nil	nil	

Section 14- Public Health (Shell-fish) Regulations 1934 and 1948.

Oysters from Brightlingsea and St. Osyth Creeks which are liable to pollution are treated at Brightlingsea Oyster Cleansing Station which is controlled by the Brightlingsea and Tendring Shell-fish Committee under the directions of the Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries, and Health. Large numbers of young oysters are imported each year from Portugal, and reared on oyster beds in the above creeks, but they are sold continually throughout the year without any 'close' season.

The famous Colchester Native oysters are cultivated in the River Colne, and the Pyefleet Channel, and are not subject to the pollution which occurs in the Brightlingsea and St. Osyth Creeks.

Cockles and winkles are collected from the shores of the River Colne and are sold without treatment of any kind. Some cases of Typhoid Fever were occasioned during the year by contaminated cockles gathered along the shore at West Mersea, and warning notices have been posted. Investigation is still proceeding.

Section 15- Medical Inspection of Aliens.

The Port is not approved for the landing of aliens.

Section 16- Miscellaneous.

Mortuaries are available at Colchester, Brightlingsea and Wivenhoe. Burial on shore of persons who have died on board ship from an infectious disease would be at Colchester Cemetery under the supervision of officers of the Borough Health Department.

The Port Sanitary Officer has his own boat for which a fixed allowance is paid in order to facilitate inspection of boats at any time, without the necessity of hiring.

Port Medical Officer of Health.

31st. March, 1953.